



THANKSGIVING DISTRICT WORK PERIOD 2009

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Dear Colleague,

Thank you for all your hard work on behalf of the American people. Due to your tireless efforts, we are holding Democrats accountable for their irresponsible policies while we continue to put forward positive solutions to the problems confronting our country.

In just the last few weeks the unemployment rate for October was announced at 10.2%, Democrats have pushed forward with Speaker Pelosi's \$1.3 trillion government takeover of health care, President Obama has announced he will be moving the mastermind behind 9/11 to New York City for trial in a civilian court, and the American people and our troops still wait for the president's decision regarding Afghanistan. We must keep up the good fight against the liberal agenda that is being advanced in Washington at the expense and security of American taxpayers.

As we look forward to celebrating Thanksgiving with our families, I encourage you to continue reaching out to your constituents, in new and innovative ways, about the challenges facing their families and small businesses. Let them know you are fighting hard in Washington to advance policies that will reduce runaway federal spending, lower taxes, and help get Americans back to work. Use this opportunity to speak out and to take action.

It was 220 years ago that our first President proclaimed our first day of thanksgiving and prayer. President Washington urged the nation to pray that our federal government would be a "blessing to all the people by constantly being a Government of wise, just, and constitutional laws, discreetly and faithfully executed and obeyed" and for all nations to know "good governments, peace, and concord." Let that be our prayer this Thanksgiving.

And let us also keep in our prayers the men and women of our Armed Forces and their families. Many will spend this holiday away from their loved ones as a service to our country and in the defense of our freedoms.

As always, please do not hesitate to contact the House Republican Conference for any assistance you may require during this Thanksgiving district work period. Let's continue to take a principled stand on behalf of the American people, and be thankful for the blessings bestowed to us.

Sincerely,

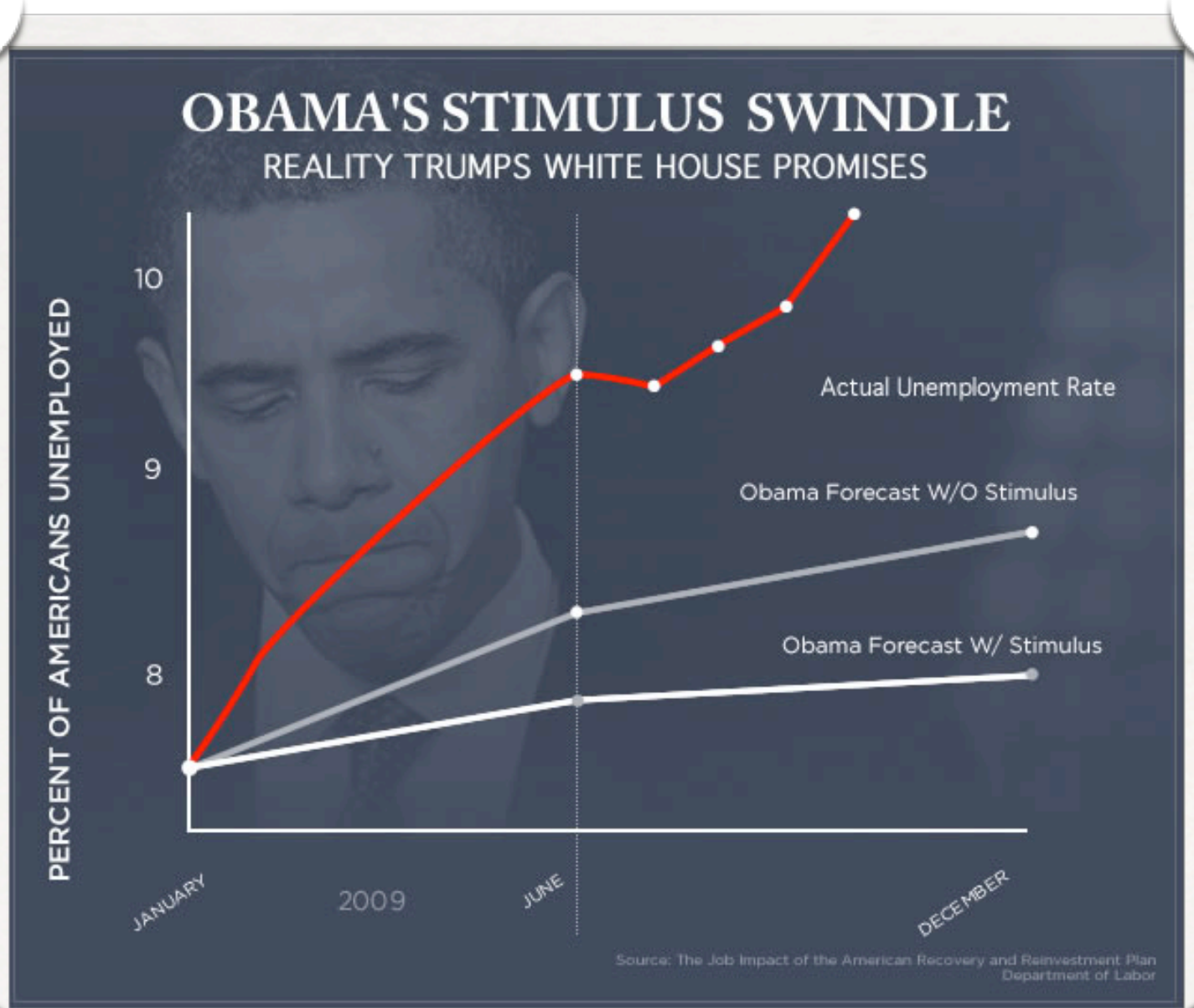
A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mike Pence", written in a cursive style.

Mike Pence
November 19, 2009

GOP Message on Jobs & the Economy

- The American people are hurting and continuing to lose jobs at an alarming rate.
- In January, President Obama and Congressional Democrats promised that borrowing another trillion dollars would create jobs “immediately” and unemployment would not rise above 8%.
- In October, however, unemployment reached 10.2 percent – the highest level of unemployment since April 1983.
- Last month 190,000 jobs were lost. Now, more than 2.8 million jobs have been lost since the so-called stimulus was signed by President Obama.
- The American people want to know: “Where are the jobs?”
- As families and small businesses continue to struggle during these difficult times, Democrats in Washington continue to pursue their liberal agenda at taxpayers’ expense.
- This month the national debt surpassed \$12 trillion. The national debt has increased by 39 percent since Democrats took control of Congress less than three years ago.
- That means every man, woman and child bears the burden of nearly \$39,000 in federal debt.
- We are piling a mountain-range of debt on the backs of future generations and they deserve better.
- News reports continue to document the waste and mismanagement of the so-called “stimulus” funds, such as claiming credit for 14,506 jobs when the money was really used to give pay raises to 9,000 existing employees.
- While the president says hundreds of thousands of jobs have been “saved or created” by stimulus money, his chief for stimulus accountability recently admitted that they cannot actually “certify” the number of jobs “saved or created.”
- President Obama has scheduled a “jobs summit” for December 3rd, but the American people don’t want more talk about jobs – they want real solutions that will create jobs.
- The American people know that a true economic recovery starts with tax relief for working families and small businesses, and fiscal discipline in Washington.
- House Republicans will continue to oppose the Democrats’ job-killing tax-and-spend policies, and support real solutions to get the American people back to work.

Where Are The Jobs?



GOP Message on Health Care

Pelosi Government Takeover of Health Care

- In the dead of night, Speaker Pelosi rammed through the House of Representatives her plan for a government takeover of health care.
- The Pelosi health care bill is 1,990 pages long, costs nearly \$1.3 trillion, includes more than \$729 billion in new taxes, and is overwhelmingly opposed by the American people.
- Speaker Pelosi promises her bill will lower health care costs, but a new report by the Obama Administration finds that the Pelosi bill actually **INCREASES** costs by \$289 billion over the next decade.
- The new study by the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) also found that the Pelosi health care bill will make it difficult for seniors and employees to keep their current health care, “possibly jeopardizing access to care for beneficiaries.”
- The CMS study confirms what every American knows: the Pelosi health care bill will raise health care costs and force millions of Americans to lose their current health care.

More Deficit Spending for “Doc Fix”

- On top of this massive new spending, taxes and debt, Speaker Pelosi is pushing forward with a “doc fix” bill that will add more than \$200 billion to the deficit over ten years.
- The “doc fix” is an important part of the health care debate, yet Speaker Pelosi did not include it in her health care bill to disguise the real cost of her health care plan.
- This represents more of the same budget gimmicks Democrats in Washington have used to deceive the American people about the true costs of their liberal agenda.

- House Republicans support a fiscally responsible solution, one that pays for a four year fix and that lays the groundwork for meaningful health care reform by ending the era of defensive medicine.

Breast Cancer Screening & Government Rationing

- We cannot allow government bureaucrats to stand between patients and their doctors.
- Recently a federal government panel announced that women in their forties should not get a mammogram and women in their fifties should only get a mammogram every other year.
- This decision mirrors the policies of countries that already have socialized health care and demonstrates how rationing starts: government bureaucrats cut critical care to control health care costs.

House Republican Plan

- House Republicans have a simpler and less expensive health care plan that reduces health care costs by letting individuals buy health care across state lines, allowing small businesses to pool together to purchase health care at a lower cost, and by reining in junk lawsuits.
- The non-partisan Congressional Budget Office estimates that the House Republican common-sense plan will lower health care premiums by up to 10 percent and reduce deficits by \$68 billion over ten years.
- House Republicans stand by the American people in support of responsible health care reform that lowers costs and offers greater access to affordable health care.

By the Numbers-Speaker Pelosi's Health Care Bill

The Republican Conference has compiled a list of important numbers relevant to Speaker Pelosi's 1,990-page health care bill:

5 million-Number of jobs that could be lost as a result of taxes on businesses that cannot afford to provide health insurance coverage, according to a model developed by Council of Economic Advisors Chair Christina Romer.

\$729.5 billion-Total new taxes on small businesses, individuals who cannot afford health coverage, and employers who cannot afford to provide coverage that meet federal bureaucrats' standards.

\$1.055 trillion-New federal spending on expanded health insurance coverage over the next ten years, according to a Congressional Budget Office preliminary score of the bill.

7%-Percentage of all that new spending occurring in the bill's first three years-representing a debt and tax "time bomb" in the program's later years set to explode on future generations.

\$88,200-Definition of "low-income" family of four for purposes of health insurance subsidies.

114 million-Number of individuals who could lose their current coverage under the bill's government-run health plan, according to non-partisan actuaries at the Lewin Group.

43-Entitlement programs the bill creates, expands, or extends-an increase from H.R. 3200.

120-Additional offices, bureaus, commissions, programs, and bureaucracies the bill creates over and above the entitlement expansions-more than double the number in H.R. 3200.

3,425-Uses of the word "shall," representing new duties for bureaucrats and mandates on individuals, businesses, and States-also more than

double the number in H.R. 3200.**\$60 billion**-Loss sustained by taxpayers every year due to Medicare fraud, according to a recent 60 Minutes expose; the government-run health plan does not reform the ineffective anti-fraud statutes and procedures that have kept Medicare on the Government Accountability Office's list of high-risk programs for two decades.

Zero-Prohibitions on government programs like Medicare and Medicaid from using cost-effectiveness research to impose delays to or denials for access to life-saving treatments.

\$634 billion-Amount that could be saved by denying individuals access to treatments that are not "cost-effective," according to a report by the liberal Commonwealth Fund; Section 1160 of the bill gives bureaucrats in the Obama Administration virtual free rein to develop a new "high-value" reimbursement system for Medicare by May 2012.

2017-Year Medicare Hospital Insurance Trust Fund will be exhausted-an entitlement crisis exacerbated by the bill, which according to the Congressional Budget Office will increase the federal budgetary commitment to health care by \$598 billion in its first ten years alone.

\$2,500-Promised savings for each American family from health reform, according to then-Senator Obama's campaign pledge-savings which the Administration's own actuaries have confirmed will not materialize, as the Pelosi health care bill would increase the growth of health care costs.

GOP Message on Guantanamo Bay Detainees

- Since 2002, the Guantanamo Bay detention facility has held some of the world's most dangerous terrorists, many who helped plan the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001.
- In January, President Obama signed an executive order to close the detention facility and promised to present a plan on how to deal with the terrorist-detainees.
- Ten months later, Congress and the American public are still waiting for the president's plan.
- Despite clear opposition from the American people, the president continues his push to transfer dangerous terrorist-detainees to U.S. soil.
- Now the Obama Administration has announced they will transfer to New York City terrorist leader and the mastermind behind 9/11, Khalid Sheikh Mohammed, and try him before a federal judge.
- If terrorists are brought to U.S. soil, they will seek to manipulate the rights provided by the very Constitution that they sought to destroy.
- Trying terrorists in civilian courts may result in sensitive intelligence information falling into the hands of terrorist organizations and may even lead to a terrorist-detainee being released inside the United States because of some legal "technicality."
- According to the Washington Post, 1 out of 7 terrorists deemed "safe" and released from Guantanamo Bay were later found participating in other terrorist activities.
- The American people want to know how bringing dangerous terrorists to U.S. soil will make our country safer.
- The president's actions are taking us back to a pre-9/11 mentality when we treated acts of terrorism as a law enforcement issue, and as a result, failed to prevent an attack.
- The American people deserve to have their voices heard in this important debate, not shut out by a president who promised openness and transparency.
- House Republicans have a plan, the "Keep Terrorists Out of America Act," that guarantees dangerous terrorists held at the Guantanamo Bay detention facility are kept off American soil and out of our courts.

Background on Khalid Sheikh Mohammed

On November 13, 2009, Attorney General Eric Holder announced that Khalid Sheikh Mohammed and four conspirators will face a trial in federal court in New York for masterminding the 9/11 terrorist attacks that claimed nearly 3,000 innocent American lives. This political decision on behalf of the Obama Administration will have serious negative consequences for national security and the justice system.

Khalid Sheikh Mohammed: Khalid Sheikh Mohammed (KSM), 44, was born to a Pakistani family living in Kuwait and was educated in the United States. KSM is the self-identified mastermind of the 9/11 terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center and Pentagon. The 9/11 Commission report identified him as a “terrorist entrepreneur.” Along with Osama bin Laden, KSM selected the 9/11 hijackers, coordinated their financing and training, and directed the attack from abroad. KSM became Osama bin Laden’s operations chief after the U.S. invasion of Afghanistan. He was captured by U.S. and Pakistani forces on March 1, 2003, in Pakistan. KSM has been held at Guantanamo since September 2006.

Delayed Justice: In New York, KSM will enjoy the legal rights and benefits of U.S. citizens and resident aliens under the Constitution. A criminal trial will force the government to reveal all of its intelligence on KSM and how it obtained it. Additionally, treating the 9/11 attacks as a simple criminal matter rather than an act of war will hinder U.S. efforts to fight terrorism and sends the wrong signal to U.S. enemies abroad. A costly civilian court trial for KSM will also likely take years. The trial of Zacarias Moussaoui, for example, was tied up in court for more than four years by his lawyers and ended only when Moussaoui pleaded guilty.

Undermining Military Commissions: The terrorist acts plotted by KSM were an act of war against the U.S. and should be prosecuted by a military

commission, not a common criminal court. In 2001, President Bush established military commissions, a wartime system of justice used during the Revolutionary War, the Civil War, and World War II. Congress approved procedures for military commissions in 2006 and 2009, and the Supreme Court has upheld their use. Military commissions held at Guantanamo Bay would produce a fair trial while guarding sensitive national security information from exposure. Appropriately, the Administration announced recently that it would use commissions to try five Guantanamo Bay detainees involved with the 2000 attack on the USS Cole in Yemen.

National Security Liability: At trial, prosecutors will be forced to reveal U.S. intelligence on KSM, along with the methods and sources used in acquiring it. This will enable al Qaeda to better understand our intelligence-gathering techniques and respond accordingly. The KSM trial will also jeopardize future military and intelligence missions. Will U.S. personnel have to read terrorists their Miranda rights on the battlefield? Will they have to collect and secure evidence in a war zone? At what risk to U.S. troops and intelligence professionals?

Unnecessary Cost to New York: The already high security risk to New York will be further increased by locating KSM and his co-conspirators in Manhattan. According to Governor David Paterson (D-NY), “This is not a decision that I would have made...It’s very painful...We still have been unable to rebuild that site, and having those terrorists tried so close to the attack is going to be an encumbrance on all New Yorkers.”

GOP Message on Afghanistan

- It is clear from General McChrystal's assessment that additional troops are needed to effectively counter the insurgency in Afghanistan.
- General McChrystal has also made it clear that without timely reinforcements the mission to deny Al Qaeda and the Taliban a safe haven, to plan future attacks against America, may well end in failure.
- We owe it to the men and women of our Armed Forces to provide them with the resources their commanders say they need to succeed in their mission.
- As a candidate for president, President Obama said "the central front in the war on terror is not in Iraq, and it never was - the central front is in Afghanistan and Pakistan, where the terrorists who hit us on 9/11 are still plotting attacks seven years later."
- In March, President Obama unveiled a comprehensive strategy intended to deny Al Qaeda and the Taliban safe haven in Afghanistan, and give the Afghan people time to build long-term economic and political stability.
- Yet it has been nearly two months since General McChrystal submitted his request for additional resources to carry out the counter-insurgency plan announced by President Obama in March.
- Now that the Afghan election has been settled and President Karzai has been sworn in for another term, there is no longer any reason to delay a decision on General McChrystal's request for resources.
- House Republicans support the strategy outlined by the president in March.
- It is time for President Obama to overcome the objections of some in his party and give our troops the resources they need to achieve the goals that he laid out in March.
- Additional delay only further endangers the lives of our men and women fighting in Afghanistan.

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